

This I Believe

“I never think of the future – it comes soon enough.” - Albert Einstein. The future is not to ponder or plan, it will unfold on its own accord and life has it all planned out. Many people think that everything has to be planned out and the future must be sure and definite. However, I think that the future is ever-changing and nothing goes according to plan. People face incredible disappointment when the future doesn't go as expected but a life with everything going according to plan isn't really living; letting life lead you through the whole way and allowing the future to change and unfold by itself – that's living. I believe that it is important to let the future happen and let your heart lead you to where you're supposed to be.

The event that made me believe in this was something that I had done for a long time, almost like I was born to do it. I started doing artistic gymnastics since I was seven, and from there, I had my future all planned out. I was passionate about gymnastics, I was sure that I was going to train hard and use it to get admitted into an elite secondary school. I felt that way until I was eleven and suddenly, I realized that I had lost my passion. I no longer felt excited to train or go for competitions anymore. I didn't feel motivated during my training sessions. I even tried to find all sorts of excuses not to go for the training sessions.

After a few months, I realized that it was rather pointless for me to keep training just for the sake of it as it was simply a waste of time. Thus, I told my parents that I wanted to quit gymnastics. They could tell that I no longer had any passion for gymnastics and allowed me to quit. For a moment, I was lost, I knew I couldn't continue doing gymnastics but I didn't know what to do without it. I had no more plans for the future, I was unsure of what to do, I felt empty and simply put, I was confused. I decided that it was time to move on and make new plans as there were so many other options out there.

In the next year, I allowed my life to unfold on its own accord and when I reached the end of my last year in primary school, I was delighted to find out that I had managed to get into one of the top elite schools, purely by results. I felt a sense of accomplishment as I realized that even without gymnastics, everything turned out to be alright and I managed to move on and stop depending on gymnastics as if it held my life.

Little did I know that another surprise was awaiting me at my new school. We had to select a co-curricular activity and had to go through sports trials. One of the trials was for gymnastics. When I was told to write my name on the list of accepted people, I declined as I was determined that I wouldn't have any passion for gymnastics and joining it would simply be like signing a contract for four years of misery.

However, I found out that I had been selected for a co-curricular activity I really disliked, so I appealed to get into gymnastics and was successful. After joining gymnastics for a period of time, I realized that I had found my passion once again. The yearning I had to do well in gymnastics far surpassed anything I had felt before, it felt like as if I was doing what I had to do. I strived hard to do well, and did it with all of my heart. Though I was doing trampoline gymnastics instead of artistic gymnastics, life had brought me back to do what I was supposed to, and had been doing for a large part of my life.

That event made me come to the realization that life is ever-changing and none of our plans will stay put. Life brings us to what we are supposed to do, no matter what we have to go through to reach that. All we have to do is work hard and follow our hearts, doing our best in no matter where or what life brings us to. The future will unfold as it should, without interference. This, I believe.